



Roberto RODRIGUES

Roberto Rodrigues, former Brazilian minister of Agriculture, Co-chairman of the Interamerican Ethanol Commission (IEC), Coordinator of the Getulio Vargas Foundation Agribusiness Center (GV Agro) and President of the Superior Council of Agribusiness of São Paulo's Federation of Industries (FIESP). Is an agricultural producer and an agricultural engineer by training, following in the steps of his father and grandfather. His sons have continued the family tradition. He is also a Professor (currently on leave), holding the Chair of Rural Economics at the São Paulo State University in Jaboticabal.

A strong supporter of the cooperative movement Minister Rodrigues chaired the Brazilian Cooperatives Organization, the World Committee on Agricultural Cooperatives and the International Cooperative Alliance. He has traveled the world in that capacity, visiting – as he likes to point out – 80 countries while performing his duties.

A well-known agribusiness leader, Roberto Rodrigues served as President of the prestigious Brazilian Rural Society and the Brazilian Agribusiness Association. He is also a member of the Board of dozens of Brazilian producer's associations. In that capacity, Minister Rodrigues represented the Brazilian agribusiness sector in several advisory committees established by the Government, such as the National Agricultural Policy Council, the National Monetary Council, and the National Foreign Trade Council. He also chaired the National Agribusiness Forum.

Appointed Minister of Agriculture and Supply by President Lula da Silva, Minister Rodrigues took office on January 1, 2003.